

News Release

Senator Pete V. Domenici

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MAY 8, 2000

DOMENICI REQUESTS APPROPRIATIONS FOR FOUR CORNERS HEALTH PROGRAMS

Senator Seeks Federal Support for Diabetes and Alcoholism Programs

WASHINGTON -- With diabetes and substance abuse continuing to be significant problems among American Indians, U.S. Senator Pete Domenici today announced his bid to secure \$4 million to support the National Diabetes Prevention Center (NDPC) in Gallup, and an additional \$1 million to support a Navajo-Farmington Alcohol Crisis Response program.

Domenici, a member of the Senate Appropriations Committee, has requested that the funding be included in the FY2001 Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education (Labor-HHS) Appropriations Bill. The committee will consider the Labor-HHS bill on Thursday.

"Diabetes and substance abuse are chronic health problems in the Four Corners region. I hope that with federal investments in research and treatments we will be able to slow the spread of diabetes and alcoholism, and help those who already suffer these dreaded diseases to from getting worse," Domenici said. "These programs will provide prevention, preliminary intervention, enhanced intervention, and sustained treatment and reintegration to the community."

Domenici's \$4 million request for the NDPC is \$1 million above the funding he has won for the program over the past three years. He is seeking the funding increase through the Centers for Disease Control's Chronic Disease Prevention Program. The CDC has worked with New Mexico tribes, the University of New Mexico Prevention Research Center, and the Gallup Indian Medical Center to plan and establish a diabetes prevention center in Gallup for American Indians.

Domenici is seeking \$1 million through the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) for the Navajo-Farmington alcohol treatment initiative.

The Navajo Nation, city of Farmington, San Juan County, Navajo Area Indian Health Service, Farmington Intertribal Indian Organization, and three medical centers have developed a program to address the serious problem of Native Americans who are often detained for intoxication.

“The Farmington alliance is modeled after a similar program I worked to help start in Gallup to address alcohol abuse in McKinley County and that area,” Domenici said. “There is a lack of available services to address this community problem, but I hope to secure this funding so that the Four Winds Recovery Center in Farmington can expand to better meet this challenge.”

Domenici stressed that his requests are only the first step in the congressional appropriations process. The Senate and House will aim to complete all 13 of the FY2001 appropriations bills to fund the federal government by the Oct. 1 start of the 2001 fiscal year.